

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A composition of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein the content of total triterpenoid sapogenins in the composition is 10-90% as determined by vanillic aldehyde and perchloric acid colorimetry using friedelin as a standard, and the contents of friedelin and lupenone are 5-35% and 1-10% as determined by GC-MS, respectively.~~

A composition comprising a substantial amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein the substantial amount is 10-90% as determined by vanillic aldehyde and perchloric acid colorimetry using friedelin as a standard, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 5-35% friedelin and 1-10% lupenone as determined by GC-MS.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein the content of total triterpenoid sapogenins is 40-80%, and the content of friedelin and lupenone are 15-25% and 3-6%, respectively.~~

The composition of claim 1, wherein the substantial amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins is 40-80%, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 15-25% friedelin and 3-6% lupenone.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the total triterpenoid sapogenins ~~comprise~~ comprising pentacyclic ~~triterpenids~~ triterpenoids including friedelin, lupenone and their homologous compounds;

the total triterpenoid sapogenins are yellow or yellowish green powders with a melting point of 74-79°C, and

the IR spectrogram performed by potassium bromide shows characteristic absorption peaks in the wave numbers of 2917, 2849, 1716, 1463, 1382 and 720cm⁻¹, and the UV spectrogram dissolved by spectroscopic pure CH₂Cl₂ with a scan ranging from 300 to 700nm shows a strong absorption in the wavelength of 412nm, a sub strong

absorption in the wavelength of 665nm and a weak absorption in the wavelengths of 505, 535 and 605nm.

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~ of extracting total triterpenoid sapogenins from bamboo comprising ~~the steps of~~:

(a) ~~mixing the material with the supercritical CO₂ fluid, thereby making the low polar substances of bamboo such as free triterpenoids dissolve in CO₂ fluid, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of poles, branches, leaves, shoots, shoot sheaths and roots of bamboo in Gramineae family or their mixture, and the extraction temperature is 50 – 65°C and the pressure is 25 – 35Mpa;~~

(b) ~~changing the pressure of CO₂ fluid containing free triterpenoids to gasify CO₂, and separating the total triterpenoid sapogenins, wherein the separation temperature is 35 – 45°C and the pressure is 5 – 10Mpa.~~

(a) selecting bamboo material from the group consisting of Phyllostachys, Bambusa and Dendrocalamus genus of Gramineae family;

(b) preparing bamboo shaving powder having a granularity from pole, branch, leaf, shoot, shoot sheath, root or a mixture of the bamboo material;

(c) extracting free triterpenoid sapogenins from the bamboo shaving powder by mixing the bamboo shaving powder with supercritical CO₂ fluid and an entrainer in the amount of 5 – 15 % (v/v) of CO₂ until the free triterpenoid sapogenins is dissolved in the CO₂ fluid at temperature 50 – 60 degree C and pressure 25 – 35 Mpa;

(d) separating total triterpenoid sapogenins from the CO₂ fluid containing free triterpenoid sapogenins by changing the temperature of the CO₂ fluid to 35 – 45 degree C and the pressure to 5 – 10 Mpa to gasify the CO₂;

(e) collecting a composition comprising 10 - 90% total triterpenoid sapogenins, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 5 - 35% friedelin and 1 - 10% lupenone.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4, wherein the material is bamboo powder with the granularity of 10-20 meshes, an entrainer is used in step (a) in amount of 5-15% (v/v) of CO₂, CO₂ is recycled and the bamboo powder is circularly and dynamically extracted for 2-5h.~~

The method of claim 4 further comprising extracting free triterpenoid saponins from the bamboo shaving powder circularly and dynamically with recycled CO₂ for 2 - 5 hours.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the said entrainer is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, acetone or the combination and a mixture of methanol, ethanol and acetone.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A use of the composition of total triterpenoid saponins defined in Claim 1 in the preparation of (i) a medicine or a Chinese and Western complex formulation used to prevent or treat hypertension, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, cerebral ischemia, senile dementia and carcinoma, or (ii) a functional food or a complex formulation used to prevent or treat cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, and carcinoma.~~

A method of treating a disease characterized as hypertension, comprising administering to a subject suffering from said disease a therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid saponins as defined in claim 1, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid saponins is administered orally in medicine or food.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A use of the composition of total triterpenoid saponins defined in Claim 1 wherein it is used as a skin and hair care factor to prepare cosmetics.~~

A method of protecting skin or hair, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid saponins as defined in claim 1,

wherein said therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins is administered externally onto the skin or hair in a daily cosmetic.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A use of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein the pentacyclic triterpenoid sapogenins from the total triterpenoid sapogenins are used to prepare a medicine or functional food for preventing or treating cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases and carcinoma, or to prepare cosmetics.~~

A method of preventing or treating a disease characterized as carcinoma, comprising administering to a subject suffering from said disease a therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins as defined in claim 1, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins is administered orally in medicine or food.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the total triterpenoid sapogenins is pentacyclic triterpenoid sapogenins.

12. (New) A composition of total triterpenoid sapogenins produced by the process of claim 4.

13. (New) The composition of total triterpenoid sapogenins of claim 12, wherein the composition comprising a substantial amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein the substantial amount is 40 - 80% as determined by vanillic aldehyde and perchloric acid colorimetry using friedelin as a standard, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 15 - 25% friedelin and 3 – 6% lupenone as determined by GC-MS.

14. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said granularity is 10 – 20 meshes.